

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Marion, Virginia held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on January 6, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver (arrived late), Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush, Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair; Police Officers Harrison Wheeler and Mason Wagoner, Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

**ABSENT:** None.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Mr. Heath rendered the invocation. Mayor Helms led the Pledge to the Flag.

**VISITORS:** Kathy Smith, Katie Smith, Charles Hayden, CB Gwyn, Hazel Wagoner, Tony Wagoner, Dylan Wagoner, Dr. Charles Wassum, Amy Wheeler, and June Wheeler.

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held December 16, 2019 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Chief Clair gave a review of the hiring process and introduced the two newest Police Officers, Harrison Wheeler and Mason Wagoner. They will begin at the Academy Monday. Mayor Helms swore in Mason Wagoner with his family present. Mayor Helms swore in Harrison Wheeler with his family present.

Mr. Cornett noted the Recreation Committee met to discuss the Golf Course Grill Room. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Request for Proposals will be advertised for grill services at the Golf Course.

Mayor Helms noted the next council meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, 2020 due to the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. The Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive raised approximately \$45,000. He commended the Police Department for their participation in Chief Overbay's funeral yesterday.

Mr. Fenyk expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Drug Court team for allowing those individuals to participate in the Red Kettle Drive. Mr. Weaver arrived.

Chief Clair noted Mr. Barker will participate on the Police Department promotional board Wednesday. The department is at full staff now.

Mr. Heath reported the Economic Development Department is finalizing the music events for the upcoming year. A ribbon cutting on Main Street will be held Friday at noon for the new Escape Room.

Mr. Hicks noted fire hydrant replacement will resume in the spring. The commercial meter replacement project is complete, however, there are still industrial meters to be replaced. Phase V Sewer project will be bid on January 23, 2020.

Mr. Rush noted the Callen Drive Recreational Park Project will require a 30-day comment period. The Golf Course bridge repairs began today.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-7) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of Legal matters. Mrs. Jennings moved that Town Council return to Open Session and identified it be known that only those matters legally exempted from Open Session and identified in the motion were discussed during Closed Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weaver and carried by a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

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Mayor

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Clerk